

GRAFT A PRODUCT OF OUR TIMES

Wasteful Use of Money which Attends the Construction of Every Public Venture

THIS RAKE-OFF A MATTER OF COURSE

A Public Structure Built Honestly Would Be a Freak—Graft an Element to be Reckoned with in Computing the Cost of a Public Structure—Opinion of New York Supreme Court Justice Howard.

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 28.—"The age of graft," says the age of commercialism. Uppermost in the human mind today is not the stars and stripes, but the dollar mark."

Such was the declaration of Supreme Court Justice Wesley O. Howard in an opinion today, fixing the compensation of a commission appointed by him to appraise damages to property resulting from the construction of the Ashokan reservoir in Ulster county to furnish a water supply for New York city.

Judge Howard reduced the compensation of the commissioners from \$2,500 each to \$2,200, and then touched upon the subject of graft.

All Things Possible if This Frightful Leak Could Be Stopped.

"It is greatly to be regretted," he said, "that no public enterprise can be projected and carried out without this appalling loss, called 'graft.' Graft is not necessarily an illegal expenditure of money, but it is that unnecessary waste of money which characterizes the construction of every public venture. At least forty per cent. of all the money appropriated for public use is lost in graft. All things could be possible if this frightful leak could be stopped—roads, canals, libraries, asylums and hospitals all these could be built out of graft could it only be saved.

The People Are Responsible.

"I do not believe that any particular

individual or class of individuals is responsible. Graft is a product of our times and institutions. It is the people who are responsible; for they seem to have lost, or to believe that they have lost, their title to integrity. They expect graft, and even spoil and booty, to deplete their resources whenever any great undertaking is ventured by them and they look with complacency and toleration and indifference at the ravages upon their property.

"Graft is as much of an element to be reckoned with in computing the cost of a public structure, as is cement or lumber.

Add 40 Per Cent. for Graft in Figuring the Cost.

"It has come to be a matter of course that this rake-off—a loss recognized by all who make estimates of cost in such cases. Figure out what a private corporation, like a railroad, can construct a public undertaking for, then add forty per cent. for graft and you have the market value of the public structure built honestly would be a freak."

Justice Howard declares that the "whole project of the condemnation of land in the Ashokan valley is characterized by waste, disorder and confusion. There is no system and no plan for doing anything. Nobody seems to be in charge of the matter and the result is an endless muddle and mix-up."

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Cabled Paragraphs

Caracas, Dec. 28.—All traffic on the Caracas-La Guayra railroad has been suspended because of landslides caused by the recent heavy rains.

Paris, Dec. 28.—The chamber of deputies today voted authorization to the Paris municipality to construct for loan of 900,000 francs (\$130,000,000) for an elaborate scheme of improvements.

Yanayna, Poland, Russia, Dec. 28.—A diagnosis by his physicians develops that Count Leo Tolstoy, the Russian novelist, is suffering from bronchitis and inflammation of the liver. The high fever of yesterday was followed today by a lower temperature.

Caracas, Dec. 28.—The Venezuelan government has terminated the diplomatic mission of Dr. Carlos Grisanti to France because France insists upon the arbitration of the claims of French citizens expelled from Carupano by Venezuelan forces based its action on the treaty of 1855.

Paris, Dec. 28.—Robert Bacon, who succeeded Herbert Hoover as American ambassador to France, arrived here this evening. He was accompanied by Mrs. Bacon and his son and daughter. He will present his letters of credence to President Fallieres at the Elysee palace Friday.

AGED PREACHER AND HIS WIFE POISONED.

Stomachs of Both to Be Sent to State Chemist for Analysis.

Washington, Ind., Dec. 28.—That William Ritter, an aged preacher, and his wife were poisoned is the theory advanced tonight by the coroner at the close of today's investigation of the death of the pair. When the bodies were found yesterday at the Ritter home, it was believed that both had been murdered by a robber or that the husband first had killed his wife and then committed suicide by taking poison.

The coroner will send the stomachs of both husband and wife to the state chemist for analysis. Charles Enoff, who lives near the Ritter home, said that last Friday night he heard Ritter screaming, but gave no attention to his cries, as he knew she was subject to attacks of hysteria.

ROCK ISLAND INQUIRY OPENS.

What Caused Monday's Sensational Rise in the Stock.

New York, Dec. 28.—At the Rock Island stock investigation today it was reported after the examination of the witnesses before the committee that a broker had been charged with having executed important speculative orders for members of the so-called Rock Island syndicate ordered each of fifteen brokers just before the exchange opened Monday to buy two thousand shares "at market."

When the stock began to leap the brokers rushed to the exchange and, short of the stock, to cover. This caused the sensational performance of the stock.

Increase in Pay of New York Women School Teachers Recommended.

New York, Dec. 28.—The law of supply and demand should regulate the pay of the city school teachers, according to the report of a special committee of the board of education today.

The committee recommended that the pay of the city school teachers be increased to \$1,000 a year. The board of education today recommended that the pay of the city school teachers be increased to \$1,000 a year.

Madison Square Garden TO BE DEMOLISHED.

Unprofitable Investment—To Be Replaced by Modern Office Buildings.

New York, Dec. 28.—Madison Square Garden, designed by the late Stanford White, and erected at a cost of \$3,000,000, has been sold to a real estate syndicate and will be torn down and replaced by modern office buildings, according to a report in realty circles today. The property has been sold to a syndicate of real estate men.

Demolition of the Madison Square Garden would mean a serious loss to the city.

The city of New York has a large area of land which is now covered by the Madison Square Garden. The city has a large area of land which is now covered by the Madison Square Garden.

SEARCH FOR DR. COOK.

Report That He Left Ontario for Detroit Yesterday.

Detroit, Dec. 28.—A diligent search by newspaper men has failed to locate Dr. Cook in this city. When the report reached here today that the ex-convict had left for Detroit, the search was intensified.

NOT BUYER OF FRIAR LANDS.

Denial of Recent Report of Purchases for Sugar Trust.

Boston, Dec. 28.—A report that the American Sugar Refining company has purchased property in the Philippines was denied today by Washington B. Thomas, Jr., president of the company. He said the company has no investments in the Philippines, he said, and has no intention of making any.

Ohio River Traffic Abandoned Owing to Ice Packs.

Pittsburg, Dec. 28.—With the ice piled high against the piers of bridges spanning the Ohio river at and around Pittsburg, Pa., the river traffic has been entirely abandoned and rivermen are preparing to cope with one of the worst winters ever experienced in the Ohio valley.

Midshipman Bragg Dismissed.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Midshipman Bragg, of the first district of Maine was today ordered to be dismissed from the naval academy for excess of demerits. He was appointed to the academy in 1906.

Record Price for Hogs.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 28.—Hogs brought the unusual price of \$8.00 on the market today. This is the highest mark attained here since 1882. Receipts were heavy. Packers did not explain the high price.

Death of Maj. Gen. John A. Wiley.

Franklin, Pa., Dec. 28.—Major Gen. John A. Wiley, probably the best known military figure in Pennsylvania, died here tonight of nephritis, aged 66 years.

New London—Rev. James G. Dolan of the Missionary band stationed at Milford preached at St. Mary's Star of the Sea church Christmas morning at the 6.30 and 10.30 masses.

Witness Brokaw In Irritable Mood

UNDER SKILFUL CROSS EXAMINATION OF WIFE'S LAWYER.

FORGETFUL OF DETAILS

Brokaw Gives His Definition of a Drinking Man—Prominent Persons Offer to Appear As Witnesses.

New York, Dec. 28.—W. Gould Brokaw had a bad day of it on the stand at Minola, L. I., today. Previously he had testified of his attitude of fairness toward his wife, who is suing for separation, but today, under skilful cross examination by her lawyer, he was forced to admit that he had accused her in a letter to his mother-in-law of being a drunkard.

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Indications of Collision at Sea

BUNDLES OF SHINGLES CAME INTO BOSTON HARBOR.

THEORY OF SEAFARING MEN

Five-Masted Schooner Davis Palmer Possibly in Collision with Another Sunken Schooner Located by Tug.

Boston, Dec. 28.—The discovery today of the wreck of the big five-masted schooner Davis Palmer, which sank with twelve men Sunday morning near Devils Back buoy at the entrance of Boston harbor, was followed by the report of another wreck three miles distant in the outer harbor.

Capt. Kemp May Have Been Mistaken. This second victim of the great storm which swept New England Saturday night and Sunday was seen by Captain Kemp of the tug Ariel, who asserts that he saw three masts of a large schooner, about one and half miles north of the buoy on the Graves. Two of the masts were surrounded by shingles, and the third by a boom and gaffs.

Also bore gill bails. Although Captain Kemp locates the vessel three miles north of the buoy, the theory of seafaring men is that the wreck is the same as that of the Palmer, and that he saw the Palmer's masts.

Seafaring men are of the opinion that the tugboat captain is not in error about his bearings are discussing the possibility of a collision between the Palmer and the sunken schooner.

The Palmer lies in deep water, with only six feet or so of her masts visible. The unknown vessel, if there is a second wreck, is about three miles to the northeast in the same general channel.

Probably the last person to see the Palmer before she sank was Captain Soopack of the barge Heptacore, which docked at Lynn today from Boston. He reported passing the Palmer at midnight and half of Cape Cod late Christmas afternoon. At that time the Palmer's crew was on deck, and he saw the ship's lights.

Other Disasters. Yesterday's roll of wrecks was increased today. The schooner Ada K. Damon, the sole support of her aged master, Capt. A. K. Brewster of York, Me., went ashore at Castle Hill, near Ipswich. She will probably be a total loss. Her crew managed to reach shore.

The schooner Maud S., owned by A. Curtis of Surry, Me., sprang a leak while in winter quarters and sank at East Surry in three fathoms.

Burial of Frederic Remington, Artist, at Canton, N. Y. Canton, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The body of Frederic Remington, painter, sculptor and writer, was taken to rest in the family plot in the village cemetery here today. Funeral services had previously been held at Ridgefield, Conn., where he died. The funeral train arrived here at 9.55 o'clock this morning and the body was conveyed to the cemetery at 10 o'clock.

The doral tributes were magnificent. They came from everywhere, from associations of artists and writers, from western admirers and from the New York association of Rough Riders.

Wants Divorce, Claims His Wife Has Negro Blood. New York, Dec. 28.—A claim that his wife has negro blood is the basis of a suit for annulment of marriage brought today by the plaintiff, a prominent contracting plumber here. He won a preliminary move today when Justice Seabury of the supreme court appointed the stage actor Andrew Macken as guardian of the woman's relatives in Connecticut.

Four-Inch Gun for Each Naval Militia Battery. Washington, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Carrie Nation has appealed from the fine of \$100 which recently was assessed her for smashing the bar at the Union hotel. The police court, the district court of appeals. The principal question raised by her attorney is that the bar was not a public place.

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